

**ABSTRACT**

A method for maintaining and/or qualitatively improving a communication path in a relay system, in particular in a radio network, wherein information is transmissible between two devices ( $A_0$ ,  $A_n$ ) via one or more additional devices ( $A_1$ , ...,  $A_{n-1}$ ) along a thus-formed communication path, and wherein at least one leg of the communication path can be replaced with a substitution path as a function of at least one predetermined parameter, or be used at least at times simultaneously with a substitution path. The method permits maintaining a link quality at a high level, even when transmission conditions vary in the course of time.

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